



Something at the Window Is Scratching: Children's Tales for Disturbed Children

Roman Dirge

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The author of two other books; Something at the Window is Scratching and the Monsters in my Tummy, Roman Dirge has carved a niche for himself as one of the masters of dark humor. The Monsters in my Tummy comes straight from the heart and is Mr. Dirge's best work to date.

Something at the Window Is Scratching: Children's Tales for Disturbed Children Details

Date : Published December 1st 1998 by Slave Labor Publications

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Author : Roman Dirge

Format : Paperback 119 pages

Genre : Sequential Art, Graphic Novels, Comics, Poetry, Horror, Humor, Fiction

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Phoebe says

Eh, an A for effort.

In truth, I never did expect much from this book - I picked it up for its Tim Burton-esque nature (and also the fact that the Tim Burton book that I initially spied in the shop and wanted was about 3 times the price).

I found myself being more interested in the author than the actually content of the book itself. The foreward is slightly rambling but I liked it, and found myself liking the author too. I also really enjoyed reading in the back of the book that he is really influenced by Tim Burton and being encouraged by him helped propel his career. Being a massive fan of Burton myself, as well as an aspiring artist, I personally found this really inspiring.

Despite my immediate fascination with the author, I unfortunately was not quite as fascinated with his short stories/poems. They lacked coherent rhythm and pace, the rhymes were quite weak and the content of some was just plain disappointing. For example, two of the poems/stories were literally about nothing. They stated the character name and then refused to elaborate. That's not clever, it's just plain annoying. I understand what he meant by what is omitted often being the most intriguing part of a story, but he did not execute this idea very well.

Certain lines did make me smile and in my opinion the decent stories were "Eddie Poe", "Pear Head Man and Bread Boy", "The Alien Ballerina" and the title poem "Something at the Window is Scratching".

Basically, I admire this guy's ambition in making this book but it's a poor attempt at recreating the styles of Edward Gorey and Tim Burton. If you want a twisted story you're better off just reading the proper ones. Maybe his other books are better but after reading this I'm not in too much of a rush to see.

Ted says

The positively best bedtime story book! I loved the Reindeer and the Bee and the Something at the Window is Scratching stories. I must admit I spent more time searching the wonderfully strange and macabre illustrations for the "many" little piggies that Dirge says he has hidden among them than reading the stories themselves. Many? I could only find nine in 56 illustrations. Surely there must be more.

Ana Pessoa says

I loved this book, it was a super light read.

It was so funny but a bit dark i guess.

Its just a bunch of short stories and super spookie.

I think its an amazing book and I cannot wait to read more of Roman Dirge!

Stacey (prettybooks) says

I discovered this on my bookshelves... It must be 10 years since I last read it.

Ariel says

I haven't read anything by Roman Dirge before, and I'd heard of "Lenore". I thought this was quite witty, and I enjoyed the art style. I thought the poems were witty and hilarious, Sounds about right for this genre, which I thoroughly enjoy. Cute quick read if you like stuff like this.

Jaimie says

I kind of wish that these types of morbin books had been around when I was a kid, besides the classic Gashlycrumb Tinies, because they are absolutely delightful. Not in the typical way, obviously, but for someone who appreciates a twisted sense of humour, these poems are absolutely hilarious. Dirge doesn't quite nail it with every poem (the pirate squid only got a few lines, com on, there's totally an epic waiting there!), but he definitely has the skill to place among the Edward Goreys and Tim Burtons of the pseudo-children's book publishing pantheon.

Zombaby Cera says

Bizarrely funny! Nice, creepy illustrations!

Benjamin says

This book was incredibly cute. I enjoyed it a lot, much like all of Roman Dirge's work.

Stephanie says

This was amazing.

Jess says

Just think of it as Shel Silverstein writes for goth teenagers.

Kattie says

This book is just as good as the Cat with the Really Big Head. The poems are cute and fun.

Kate says

Next up for Readathon!

I love Dirge and his wonderful creepiness!

Katy says

This escapes 1 star for me only because of the artwork. The writing was not scary, not interestingly weird, and aggressively forced into (frequently poorly constructed) verse.

David Schaafsma says

Odd, creepy illustrations for poems for children. Dirge, who also wrote *Lenore: The Cute Little Dead Girl* (which I still haven't yet read) says "This is a collection of children's tales for disturbed children." Ha! Nice.

This guy is working in the same macabre territory and seems to be inspired by Edward Gorey, but this work seems definitely younger. It actually feels more like Tim Burton territory. The drawings are cute and strange, and the poems are pretty good, often worth a few smiles. I liked it!

Here's an example of his art, which has also made its way into animation in various places:

<https://www.google.com/search?q=roman...>

Westerville says

Just think of it as Shel Silverstein writes for goth teenagers. - Jessica, Adult Services

Reserve a library copy.
